

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-19. Canceled.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for attaching a heart valve prosthesis in a patient, the method comprising:

providing a fastener having a head and a sharp tip; and

positioning a prosthesis comprising leaflets with a plurality of commissure supports in a selected position proximate an aortic wall, a root, or a pulmonary artery wall;

positioning a reinforcement along an inner surface of at least one of the commissure supports, wherein the reinforcement has at least one aperture; and

inserting the tip of the fastener through the at least one aperture in the reinforcement, the prosthesis and through an the aortic wall or root or a the pulmonary artery wall, the prosthesis comprising leaflets with valve commissure supports to attach the heart valve prosthesis in a patient;

~~wherein the prosthesis further comprises a reinforcement attached to the inner surface of one of the commissure supports, the reinforcement having apertures for insertion of the fastener.~~

21. Canceled.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for attaching a heart valve prosthesis in a patient, the method comprising:

providing a reinforcement having at least one aperture;

providing a fastener having a head and a sharp tip; and

inserting the fastener through the at least one aperture in the reinforcement;

positioning a prosthesis comprising leaflets with a plurality of commissure supports in a selected position proximate an aortic wall, a root, or a pulmonary artery wall;

positioning the reinforcement along an inner surface of at least one of the commissure supports; and

inserting the tip of the fastener through the prosthesis and through an aortic wall or root or a pulmonary artery wall to attach the heart valve prosthesis to a patient., the prosthesis comprising leaflets with valve commissure supports;

wherein the prosthesis further comprises a reinforcement attached to the inner surface of one of the commissure supports, the reinforcement having apertures for insertion of the fastener, wherein the fastener is inserted into the reinforcement prior to inserting the fastener into the aortic wall or root or the pulmonary artery wall.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the heart valve prosthesis is a stentless porcine valve.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein each of the commissure supports of the prosthesis comprises at least one reinforcement.

25. Canceled.

26. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein a plurality of fasteners are inserted to secure the prosthesis to the aortic wall or root or the pulmonary artery wall.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the fastener further comprises an elongated portion, the tip at an end of the extended portion and the head on the end opposite the tip, the tip passing through the commissure support and through the aortic wall or root or the pulmonary artery wall to secure the prosthesis to the aortic wall or root or the pulmonary artery wall.

28-29. Canceled.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 further comprising providing a barb on the tip of the fastener to maintain the fastener in place after insertion.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the heart valve prosthesis comprises a tissue valve.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising providing the head of the fastener with a shape such that the head is larger than a diameter of the elongated portion of the fastener.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the elongated portion of the fastener extends through the prosthesis and the aortic wall or root or the pulmonary artery wall to secure the prosthesis to the aortic wall or root or the pulmonary artery wall.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for attaching a heart valve prosthesis in a patient, the method comprising:

providing a fastener having a head and a sharp tip; and

positioning a prosthesis comprising leaflets with valve commissure supports in a selected position proximate an aortic wall, a root, or a pulmonary artery wall;

positioning a reinforcement along an outer surface of the prosthesis, the reinforcement having at least one aperture;

inserting the tip of the fastener through the prosthesis, the at least one aperture in the reinforcement, and through an aortic wall or root or a pulmonary artery wall to attach the heart valve prosthesis to the patient, the prosthesis comprising leaflets with valve commissure supports;

wherein the prosthesis further comprises a reinforcement is attached to the outer surface of the prosthesis, the reinforcement having apertures for insertion of the fastener.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein the heart valve prosthesis comprises a polymer valve.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the prosthesis further comprises a reinforcement attached to a scallop formed between the commissure supports of the prosthesis, the reinforcement having apertures for insertion of the fastener.
37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the fasteners are inserted along a curvilinear path.
38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the tip of the fastener is tapered.